THE MINISTER OF COMM-RCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKH-RJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The spoiled incident took place on 994 late in the evening. The omplaint was lodged by the child nd his mother with the Police tation (IITF'94)at Gate No. 2, 'ragati Maidan. The two regular ecurity Guards of the India Trade 'romotion Organisation (ITPO) /ere taken into custody by the Delhi 'dice on 22-11-1994. The same day he incident was reported to the Management for disciplinary action, rhe two security guards are under uspension and presently under eidicial costody.

(c) and (d) The ITPO has not eceived any reaction to this incident rom any of the participants, foreign >r Indian.

(e) AU the officials of the Security Unit are fully aware of the disciplinary action under the ITPO service and conduct rules. They are *ully aware that as and when there are cases of misconduct, unauthorised absence from duty etc. and if by chance any such case takes place, ITPO will take strict disciplinary action against them.

The Unit of Delhi Police stationed at Pragati Maidan during IITF' 94 has been quite active as it has been taking appropriate action whenever any unlawful incident takes place.

Review of BOP cover to India by GATT

767. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report, published in the Times of India dated 27th October, 1994 under the caption "GATT to review Balance of Payment cover to India".

(b) if so. what are tlie facts and relevant details in thi? regard;

(c) what are the details of the benefits available under the balance of payments (BOP) cover available to India; and

(d) what will be the concrete negative impact of the withdrawal of the BOP cover ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The GATT Committee o_u Balance of Payments Restrictions held simplified consultations with India under Article XVIII of the GATT on 15 November, 1994. The Committee has decided to hold full consultations late next year.

(c) GATT provides inter-alia that countries the economy of which can only support Jow standards of living and are in the early stages of development may control the general level of their imports by restricting the quantity or value of the merchandise permitted fo be imported provided the import restrictions do not exceed those necessary (a) to forestall the threat of, or to stop, a serious decline in its monetary reserves, or (b) in the case of a contracting party with inadequate monetary reserves, to achieve a reasonable rate of increase in its reserves.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand regarding budgetary provision towards exports subsidy

768. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has forwarded a demand to th p.

Cabinet Committee on Tax and Investment (CCTI) for making a budgetary provision of Rs. 300 crores towards export subsidy ;

(b) w . factors whit the Ministry is ..itributing for growth of exports in the post-GATT Scenario; and

(c) whether the cheap labour aviJlable in the country is a major factor of competitive advantage to the Indian exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the post-GATT Scenario, sizeable increases in trade are ex pected to occur in the areas of clothing, agriculture, forestry and fishery products. Since India's existing and potential export com petitiveness lies in these areas, it is expected that India would get its due share in the overall] growth of exports in the post-GATT [scenario.

(c) Labour is only one among a host of other factors which deter mine the competitive advantage of the Indian economy.

Amendments in laws following GATT Replication

769. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of laws and amending laws to be enacted as a follow up of GATT ratification; and

(b) whether the above laws be; ig framed have taken enough care about the farmers' interests and if s >, how it would be done generally and in terms of acquiring new varieties of seek by farmers at reasonable rates? I

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) To safeguard our interests und meet our obligations, amendments at viirious stages are likely mainly to the Customs Tariff Act (in respect of Anti-Dumping and Countervailing provisions); the Copyright Act; the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act; the Patents Act; the Industrial Design Act; and laws to deal with restrictive trade practices. Fresh legislation would need to be considered in the areas of geographical indications, lay-out designs of integrated circuits, undisclosed information, plant variety protection and safeguards.

The legislation on plant variety protection is in the process of being drafted and it would address issues of fanners' interests.

Stagnation in Tea product on

770. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI RAHASPIHAR] BARIK:

Will the Minister of COM M1IRCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the stagnancy in tlie production ol *be* country

(b) the tea producing areas where si has been mostly there:

(c) the re.isons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Production of tea in the country has been increasing steadily. Between 19^3 to 1993. there has been an increase of nearlv 30% in overall production level in the country with all major tea growing regions showing a steady increase.